

# EACC NEWS

The East Asia Christian Conference is an organ of continuing fellowship and co-operation among the Churches and Christian Councils in East Asia.

Secretary for Information: Ruth K. Cadwallader

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## MEN OF ALL FAITHS CALLED TO PRAYER FOR EAST PAKISTAN

EACC - On Sunday, October 3, at the Vatican, Pope Paul VI made an "anguished appeal for men of all faiths to go without food next Sunday in a day of prayer and fasting in solidarity with eight million desperate East Pakistan refugees", according to a report by the Associated Press.

The Pope told a crowd in St. Peter's Square that thousands of these refugees are "on the brink of death." He said he made his appeal "especially for the 800,000 exhausted, sick and undernourished children" reported to be in the refugee camps. The Pope went on to say that aid agencies were doing what they could, but he asked: "How can they prevent a calamity which is greater than their means?"

Reports coming into the EACC office continue to verify the serious plight of East Pakistanis.

From Dacca comes reports that prices in the village markets have come down due to decreased buying capacity of the people but that the price of rice in the towns on the other hand had increased up to 50%. These factors, the source said, were contributing to poverty and famine. In some villages in East Pakistan people are in desperate need of food, temporary shelter and clothing.

According to reports from the National Christian Council of India, the services of the agencies are "fully extended" in caring for refugees. Some forty-seven feeding centres along the India border, manned by volunteers are providing food amounting to 1000 calories per person per day, which is not enough to ward off starvation. Within the month the worst flood in 100 years is reported in Bihar, making one million more homeless and in need of help.

The East Pakistan Christian Council meeting on September 18 in Dacca, decided to start immediately projects for feeding school children and assisting dispensaries and hospitals; for financing paddy husking to provide employment and increase the availability of rice; and making bamboo craft, fishing nets and boats. Other projects under consideration are fish culture and the making of bricks and soap.

## AD HOC COMMITTEE SELECTS EACC SCHOLARS

BANGKOK - Five persons have been selected in the EACC Free Place Scholarship Programme for training at different institutions in New Zealand and Australia. The candidates from India, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia were selected by an international ad hoc committee which met here on October 6, 1971.

Only those applying to institutions in New Zealand and Australia were chosen at this meeting because the academic year begins in March 1972. Another meeting to select those applying for institutions in the rest of the EACC region will be held soon after the closing of the applications, November 30.

There are forty-six offers of free places within the EACC region for qualifying students seeking training in theology, medicine, arts and sciences. Under the programme, the EACC provides travel fare while the student and the sending church are together responsible for incidental expenses. Preference is given to those who have completed basic studies in their home country.



The ad hoc committee consisted of U Kyaw Than, General Secretary, EACC; the Rev. Wichean Watakeecharoen, General Secretary of the Church of Christ in Thailand; the Rev. Sugunananthan, Ceylon, Asia Secretary, World Student Christian Federation; the Rev. Brian Ball, missionary from the Presbyterian Church, Australia to the CCT; Mr. Marcos Ramos, Regional Adult Education Advisor, UNESCO, Philippines; Dr. Nippon Kantasewi, Dean, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, Kasetsart University, Thailand; and Miss Mary Luz Rivera, Administrative Secretary, EACC, Bangkok.

#### ACS EMPHASIZES "DEVELOPMENT" FOR 1972

BANGKOK - Some 29 projects requiring participatory contributions involving a sum equivalent to US\$352,326.00 will form the substantial targets of attention for Asian Christian Service in 1972, according to the decisions of the Committee of Reference which met at Bangkok from 12-14 October.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Peter Wong, Executive Secretary of the Church of Christ in China, Hong Kong. U Kyaw Than and Mr. Mathew Ogawa, the General Secretaries of the EACC, Mr. Yap Thiam Hien, Indonesia and Mr. Nguyen Tang Canh Geneva, Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Vietnam Sub-Committee of the WCC; Mr. Samuel M. Isaac (India), Vientiane, Mr. Masaichi Yamashita (Japan), Saigon, and Mr. Jorge Quismundo (Philippines) Vientiane - all members of the ACS Directorate, and Mr. Vu Duc Chang, Deputy Director General of Education and Chairman of the Programme Advisory Committee, Vietnam, were among those who attended the committee meeting.

The work of 72 volunteers and staff of ACS drawn from 12 nations was reviewed and new directions given for the future.

ACS is the service arm of the member churches and councils in the EACC area and contributions toward its programme come also from churches outside the region. In 1971 out of the indicated contributions of US\$382,000.00, EACC members gave or pledged US\$85,252.00.

Some considerations in relation to choice and implementation of the projects were to give adequate balance between development, welfare and relief activity, to determine the level of 'development' to be involved in by ACS and to make a careful study of capital funds available and long-range projects in the light of continuing commitments.

The Committee appraised the work accomplished during the year and devoted time for a thorough study and debate on the projects presented for approval for the 1972 programme. Although projects had received preliminary study and screening by the Programme Advisory Committees in both Laos and Vietnam, they were examined again within the larger framework of policy and priority.

They further studied reports on ACS Medical Work in Laos by Dr. Eduardo Villegas, EACC Consultant on Medical Work, and the perspectives given by Mr. Nguyen Tang Canh on foreign assistance in Laos. Situations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia differ and the programmes in each country were developed according to their respective needs.

At a ceremony held at Saigon on 28th September, H. E. Dr. Tran-Nguyen Phieu, the Minister of Social Welfare awarded ACS a First Class medal for social work. Mr. Isaac receiving the award on behalf of ACS assured Dr. Phieu that appreciation so expressed would be conveyed to the member churches.



## ECUMENICAL MISSIONARY STRUCTURES

EACC - Recent reports from the National Council of Churches of Christ of the U.S.A. reaching the EACC regarding the restructuring of the Division of Overseas Mission (DOM), tells of the creation of two departments for mission and service.

The service arm remains Church World Service. A new mission department called Strategy Technical and Area Programme (STAP) is presently to be served by eight area secretaries (Latin America, 2; Africa, 3; Middle East Europe, 1; and Asia, 2) The Rev. E. R. Barr was named Executive Director of STAP. The two Asia Secretaries are the Rev. Edwin Luidens for Mission and Rev. Boyd Lowry for Church World Service, but the organization calls for flexibility across both functional and geographical portfolios.

With this new structure and the EACC newly born structure, negotiations will continue to be in progress. In communication with the Rev. Randolph Nugent, Executive Director of DOM, the General Secretary of the EACC and Dr. Nugent had discussed the strategy for coordination between the missions of the NCCC USA and the EACC. Specifically they explored the possibility of a crystallization of the essential service rendered by the different Asia desks in the DOM and different Asia desks in denominational mission boards and the EACC secretariat's role in missions. There was also the examination of the possibilities of defining the mandate of the EACC missions portfolio cooperatively between the EACC and DOM.

At the special session of the EACC Continuation Committee recently held in Singapore, provision was made for a "Mission Desk" to be set up within the programme Committee on Message and Communication. The General Secretary was authorized to engage in conversations with western mission boards in order to implement it.

Negotiations are going forward to provide for this appointment to the EACC staff. "While the strategy as well as policy of Service and Mission had to be looked at together in Asia," U Kyaw Than, General Secretary, says, "The past experience of the EACC and new discussions regarding the missionary enterprise showed that full-time attention is needed to be given to the so-called "Missions" issues in this region." At the Singapore meeting the EACC in restructuring, separated the areas of Service and Mission.

Further impetus had come from the Consultation on "Missionary Service in Asia Today" held in Kuala Lumpur in February '71. The Consultation though sponsored by Methodists, was from the beginning seen as a contribution to and in behalf of the whole church and ecumenical movement. Forty percent of the participants were Asian churchmen.

Recommendations from that meeting, endorsed at Singapore by the Continuation Committee strongly urged the immediate implementation of two interlated recommendations. First, that the churches alter the present mission structures in order to move toward broad ecumenical relationships at local, national and regional levels. Such a move will change present bi-lateral arrangements between Asian churches and western mission boards to internationalize the system and to begin to place the power of decision and responsibility nearer the place of implementation. The second, recommended "that the churches establish in Asia an ecumenical central clearing house, and that the Asian churches determine its geographical location, format and staff. Every church engaging a missionary through the Central clearing house will help support him."

## CHURCH UNION PLAN FOR NEW ZEALAND

WELLINGTON - At a special church service held here on September 21, a revised plan for Church union was presented to representatives of the Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches and the Associated Churches of Christ (Disciples). The goal for accomplishing church union which would result in the Church of New Zealand is set for 1975.



A plan, initiated in 1969, had taken into account replies from the churches and it is expected that the revision will be favourable received by church assemblies of the negotiating Churches. According to present census figures, about 60% of the population of the country would be involved.

The plan provides that the ordained ministry would be bishops, presbyters and deacons. At a special service present clergy would be accepted into the united church.

The supreme council would be the national assembly made up of all bishops and some presbyters and laymen. A president would head the assembly together with a moderator and deputy-moderator, one of whom would be a layman. There would no longer be archbishops, or canons. The plan has sections dealing with the principles on which the union would be based, the structure of the united church and the procedures for inauguration.

#### CHINESE LUTHERAN PUBLISHERS CONSULT

HONG KONG - Representatives from seven Chinese Lutheran Churches in Southeast Asia held a consultation here on publication work. September 17-21. The Tao-sheng Publishing House of the Lutheran Literature Society assisted by the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) sponsored the meeting.

Papers which served as a background for various discussions were: "Cooperation in Christian Publishing" by Professor Timothy Yu, head of the department of Communications of the Hong Kong Baptist College; "Hymnal Revision" by Dr. Heyward Wong, publisher of the Chinese Christian Literature Council; and Dr. Won Yong Ji, Secretary for Church Cooperation, LWF, "The Role of Periodicals".

Dr. Wong is presently leading a project to revise the widely used "Hymns of Universal Praise", published by the Church of Christ in China.

The Consultation explored readership targets and contents of church periodicals as well as procedures in publication, finance and distribution of such periodicals. Publishers from Korea and Japan were present as consultants.

#### JAPANESE YOUTH WORKER APPOINTED TO ACC STAFF

SYDNEY - A Japanese youth worker and former University Student Affairs Officer at International Christian University, has been appointed to the staff of the Australian Council of Churches (ACC) to conduct an experimental youth ministry.

Tadashi Miyabe, 33, who holds degrees in Arts and Divinity from Waseda University, Japan, and Yale University, U.S.A., has taken up the position under the Australia-Asia partnership scheme of the EACC's Special Ecumenical Fund. Mr. and Mrs. Miyabe arrived in September and will work with the Council for twelve months.

Mr. Miyabe is expected to concentrate on a flexible programme of meetings and conferences with students and church youth groups. Initially, he will give particular attention to senior highschool students, University students and parish youth groups. His work which is being supported by a resource committee representing the ACC and the Student Christian Movement, is also aimed at discovering needs for an ecumenical youth ministry and recommending future staffing possibilities.

#### BRIEFS . . .

. The Rev. Kim Young Jun is the newly appointed Executive Director of the Korean Audio-Visual Committee (KAVCO) of the Korean National Christian Council. He brings varied experience to his work having been a teacher of Homiletics in theological schools in Seoul and eleven years in the pastorate of churches. He has studied Audio Visual Education at Princeton, N.J., U.S.A.